Dear Madam/sir,

Please note my wish as a citzen of the United States of America to disagree with the settlement as offered by the Justice Department to resolve the Microsoft monopoly case.

As I understand it, the goal of the Justice department should be to ensure that a fair and just solution be implemented in the interest of the American Public, as well as sufficient punishment for the wrong doing engaged in by Microsoft.

I believe the current soultion offered fails on both counts listed above.

Microsoft has been found to be a monopoly (this in itself is OK) in operating systems, but they have been found to use this power to inhibit competition and gain market share in other areas such as browsers and Office productivity software. This behavior was rightly found to be illegal. Sufficient punishment demands that they be prevented from engaging in this kind of practice ever again.

Under the current proposal, Microsoft would get lots of legal "wiggle room" to comply with the letter of the law but not the intent of the law. Since Microsoft has previously proven to be very good at avoiding complience (the original consent decree from the 1980's), one can assume without a doubt that Microsoft will again play these games.

So, the punishment part of the proposal must be designed so that Microsoft will not have anything to gain by playing legal games. It should be a very large cash fine, as this is the only way to get the attention of high paid executives that consider themselves above the law.

Secondly, for a fair and just solution for the American public, the Justice department should rule that Microsoft has to publish all the data formats for its data files. This should not be a burden to Microsoft. These data formats are important because one has to have knowledge about the formats to read the data. As it stands, Microsoft does not share this data with the industry and prevents other companies from being able to read its data formats, such as MS Word files for example.

There is no reason that MS Word files from one user need to be read only by another MS Word user, except for the fact that it is difficult and time consuming to decode by anyone else without information from Microsoft. This is analagous to AT&T only being able to call other AT&T customers or phones. But this is not the case, in fact, in the telecommunications industry the

signalling standards (or data format) for a call are well known public information.

This means that if I want to phone home to the USA from Switzerland, all I need to do is call my number in the USA. Because the signalling standards are known by everyone, the Swisscom phone switch can convert my request such that is easily decoded by the AT&T phone switch. With this well known or open data format, the public is well served. Notice that there is no affect to the intellectual property of AT&T or Swisscom. The public does not know or care how the phone switches work as this is not published, but only that the data formats are known so the systems can interoperate.

I believe that the same model should be applied to the Microsoft case. I don't care what they put into windows, but when they take the data formats for the Internet browser, MS Office suites and a host of other programs and refuse to share the formats publicly, the public will have no choice but to use only Microsoft software to be able to decode them. Notice that even on the Mac platform, one must use MS Office programs to be able to read a Word document sent by someone else.

I sincerely hope that you will read my proposal and implement a tough but fair solution in the Microsoft case. Please make sure that the American people win in the name of justice, fairness and innovation for the sake of a free world.

Thank you for giving the American public a chance to comment on this issue.

Thank You and regards,

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